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TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Senior Reclamation Specialist *HS*

RE: MolyCorp Proposal for NORM Repository, Radiation Control Board Meeting, M/037/022, San Juan County, Utah

I attended a Radiation Control Board meeting on April 9, 1993. My purpose for attending, was to listen to a proposal by MolyCorp. to place NORM wastes in the Small Fry mine. MolyCorp wants to buy the Small Fry from W.K. Enterprises and use the mine for a repository for vanadium mill tailings. The mill tailings are currently residing at a site in Dry Valley, some 7 miles from the Small Fry.

The reason this presentation was made was because adverse public comments were received by DRC/DEQ after the project was publicly announced by DEQ. Mr. Preston Truman, representing the Downwinders said that the project would be precedent setting opening the door for similar activity by other operators. The depositing of such material would not be as well regulated as it would be at a licensed NORM waste landfill.

A proposal was made by one of the Board members to allow the company to submit a formal plan to the Div. of Radiation Control (DRC). The plan would be evaluated by the Div. then submitted to the Board, for their approval in 3-4 months time. The Div. will also look into similar proposals in other states that might have a bearing on this situation. However, the Board made it clear that this site would be judged on its site specific merits (type of material to deposited, environmental and hydrogeologic character) and not compared with other sites in other states that were not similar in nature. The Board voted in favor of going ahead with the project application, but not approving it at this time.

DRC will inform the Division regarding the next Board meeting when the issue will be evaluated again.

jb

